

Pahad Association Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 2

July 2002

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From the Chairman

Dear Members,

We have been planning to bring out these newsletters quarterly since the first edition a year ago. However, we have found many good excuses NOT to do so! The main excuse was that we kept hoping that someone-else would do so! The last and probably the best excuse we came up with was: give the editorial responsibilities to the students (whoever they may be!). Most recently, out of foolhardiness rather than good sense, this scribe volunteered to take it on! He somehow still deludes himself with the notion that such a periodical is of interest to our members, friends and well-wishers all over the world and that we need to tell each other about our success to make us feel we are winning! He will learn!

Fine! But the problem is as always: who has the time and interest to produce it? We all know that it takes a lot of both to produce an interesting read. So putting my word-processor where my mouth is, I have taken the plunge! The impetus for this number was Hikmat who is himself under pressure to contribute to the POCT web-site <http://www.pestalozziworld.org.uk>. He let me know recently, that he was waiting for my promised newsletter to include it as a part of the material he needed! So without more ado this scribe is tapping away as quickly as possible. He hopes that the paucity of the offering here will persuade many to take pity and send in articles and news for inclusion in the next quarterly number.

By the way, the next most important event on the offing for your calendars is PAHAD's third Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is to be held on Saturday, 31st August 2002 (Bhadra 15, 2059) at 2:00 pm. Malpi International College is the preferred venue as it was last year. However, the proposed date and time are to be confirmed. So please stay in touch with the Hon. Secretary! What makes this AGM special is that it marks the end of the present Executive Committee's tenure; a new committee needs to be elected for the next 2 years. So let's have some new blood to lead the organisation shall we?

Wishing you and all your families a safe and successful BS 2059.

JAI PAHAD!

Maniprasad Rai

Chairman 8 July 2002

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

—Alan, age 10

PAHAD Scholarship for BS 2059

On 22 June '02 the Selection Committee deliberated. There were 4 applications as follows:

Name of applicant	Class	Address	Proposed by
1. Laxmi Shrestha (G)	4	Budhanilkantha	D K Shrestha
2. Bindesh Tripathi (B)	3	Dhading	Kumar Pandey
3. Nirajan Ghimire (B)	3	Kathmandu	Kumar Pandey
4. Manita Lamichhane (G)	4	Kathmandu	Bhola Shrestha



Bindesh Tripathi



Laxmi Shrestha



Monita Lamichhane



Nirajan Ghimire

The Selection Committee consisting of the Members of the PAHAD Executive Committee then present examined the applications and also discussed the following aspects:

1. Last year's decision was to exclude students from private schools for PAHAD Scholarships because they are expensive and come from generally wealthier families. The Committee agreed to waive this bar this year because the present emergency in the country has prevented many from going to their villages to find suitable candidates - thus resulting in only 4 candidates. Hence, it was decided to accept all the four applicants for PAHAD Scholarships 2059.

2. Of the four applications we have received this year, two applicants, Nirajan and Manita, go to private schools. However, they were both considered deserving cases. Their school costs are much higher than present Government run schools where we look for our candidates. Thus, it was agreed that they receive only as much support from PAHAD as the government school scholars do. For PAHAD this is a major decision whereby we now accept to give less than full costs of the scholar's schooling costs.

Regarding the funding, the Chairman commented that last year's four scholars managed to cover all their expenses within Rs. 3,000. He therefore suggested this amount for the new group of scholars too. However, others suggested up to Rs. 5,000. Therefore after much discussion, a guestimated table of expenditure was produced by Kumar Pandey – shown below:

	Description	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Totals
1	School Fees		1,500.00	1,500.00
2	School Uniform	2 sets	600.00	2,000.00
	Shoes	1 pair	600.00	
	School Bag	1	200.00	
	Umbrella	1	200.00	
	Additional Fund		400.00	
3	Text Books		300.00	300.00
4	Stationery			
	Exercise Books	2 dozens	168.00	358.00
	Pens	3	45.00	
	Ink		45.00	
	Pencils	1 dozen	32.00	
	Sharpeners + erasers		18.00	
	Geometry Box	1	50.00	
5	Total			4,158.00

Thus Rs. 4,000 (Four Thousand Rupees only) for every student per year was approved.

The scholarship money for the candidates has already been authorised. The letters informing them that they have been selected are being sent soon through their sponsors at the time of writing. As before, all the main correspondence will be maintained by the Hon. Secretary. However, the management and close contact with the scholars is the responsibility of the sponsors.

The Chairman congratulates the members of the Committee for having finally achieved this year's major task – that of finding 2 boys and 2 girls for PAHAD Scholarships!
Well done everyone!

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

—Anita, age 9

Selections of POCT Scholars BS 2059 for Budhanilkantha School

The POCT Co-ordinator and PAHAD Chairman were invited to select this year's scholars on 13 June 02. A large number of deserving candidates were examined and their deliberation was not final till the following day. However, on 3 July, they were informed that it was all cancelled!

They were informed that the Ministry of Education has decided to select the 26 Scholarship Students at Budhanilkantha School. The selection criteria: 5 top students in each of the 5 Development Regions, the top girls in those Development Regions (if not already selected) followed by students from sections of Nepali population who needed special attention. The tally was 19 Boys and 7 Girls from the following ethnic mix:

Brahmins and Chhetris	- 15
Dalits	- 8
Adhibasi & Janjati	- 3

We had previously selected 4 Girls and 2 Boys (plus 1 Boy in Reserve) as requested by POCT. Now, we were looking for the replacement for the 3 girls who had been excluded. Of the 7 girls five had been already taken by an American Charity called Hands in Outreach (HIO). The 2 girls that remained were from families who would probably only attract Half Government Scholarships (i.e. From relatively better off families). So we took the decision of selecting 3 Boys instead because they were very deserving. POCT has been requested to approve.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids.

—Lori, age 8

Pahad Anniversary Party

PAHAD's 2nd Anniversary Celebration was held on 4 May 2002 (the nearest Saturday) at the Pestalozzi Centre, Budhanilkantha School with all the POCT scholars invited. At 14.15 p.m. the Master of Ceremonies (MC), Miss Tara Poudel (Life Member and Senior POCT Scholar) called the Meeting to Order and proceeded as follows:

Appointing the Chairman. She called the PAHAD Chairman to preside and other Board Members to take their place. Likewise, the MC also requested all others present to be seated too.

Self-Introductions. The MC then requested each one to introduce himself or herself. She then invited the Chairman to speak.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

- *The Chairman welcomed everyone and congratulated the members for keeping PAHAD alive!*
- *He also said that, this day, he missed his friend and former Hon. Secretary Ghanashyam Ranjitkar.*

- *He reminded everyone that we are gathered to celebrate our 2nd Anniversary and also to share what PAHAD has done in its stated aims of "Helping children from poor and disadvantaged families to obtain secondary level education".*
- Last year we found and selected the four children for PAHAD Scholarships. Very soon we will be looking at another 4 new Scholarship for 2059.
- PAHAD had also begun to save money in the Bank to pay for future scholarships.
- *POCT Reunion was held in Dehra Dun in February. Members of PAHAD attended – more later.*
- *The present Emergency in Nepal is making it very difficult to supervise PAHAD Scholars satisfactorily. This is something we will have to resolve.*
- *Members were reminded that everyone is invited to find and nominate a candidate and that he or she will be responsible for monitoring that candidate's progress if selected.*
- *The Chairman suggested producing a Newsletter every three months. He called upon the senior students to be both contributors and editors of the Newsletter*

Update by Hon. Secretary. The MC read out the Hon. Secretary's Report covering the period since the 1st Anniversary in the latter's absence. It focused on our achievements, membership, funding and future plans.

- **Achievements.**

1. Our most significant achievement in the past year was the launch of the PAHAD Scholarships Programme in July 2001. Our first four scholars, Lal Bahadur, Uma, Rabi and Bel Kumari are doing well at their respective schools.
2. PAHAD is now getting ready to select another four scholars for the year 2059.
3. The first issue of the PAHAD Newsletter was produced in July last year.
4. PAHAD's Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Malpi International College in October. The AGM elected member Kumar Pandey to the Board.
5. PAHAD Executive Committee also inducted a new Treasurer (D.K. Shrestha), Secretary (Hikmat) and POCT Coordinator (Bhola Shrestha) when Ghanashyam Ranjitkar prepared to leave for Canada.
6. The POCT Reunion for 2002 was held in Dehradun, India from 21 to 26 February. Major Rai, Bhola Shrestha, Tara Poudel, Abhishek Gurung and Hikmat Khadka attended from PAHAD Association.
7. PAHAD's registration was renewed in April. We need to renew ourselves again in Ashar (June/July) this year.
8. PAHAD continues to hold regular quarterly Committee Meetings. In addition, members try to meet at informal gatherings.

- **Membership.**

To date, PAHAD has 81 members. Among them 17 are Student Members, 8 Ordinary Members, 46 Life Members, 9 Well Wishers of PAHAD and 1 Honorary Member. The growth in membership is very encouraging as our members recruit newer members in Nepal as well as all over the world.

- **Funding.**

Membership subscriptions form a major part of our income. This is utilized exclusively for PAHAD scholarships. We also receive donations and gifts which may be used to meet maintenance costs of PAHAD although we are an entirely volunteer based organisation where individual members meet their own expenses while working for the organisation.

- **Future Plans.**

1. PAHAD Camps will be organised for our scholars starting this year.
2. POCT students will be involved much more in PAHAD's future activities.
3. As PAHAD faces more complex issues that need resolution, sub-committees will be meeting more often for brainstorming sessions and detailed discussions on those issues before being presented to the Executive Committee Meetings.
4. Fundraising activities are being considered.
5. A PAHAD Village with its hostel, farm, sports and workshop is still our AIM for the longer term.

Update by Hon. Treasurer. The Treasurer reported the following:

Total Income as at May 4, 2002:	Rs. 2,35,287.00
Total Expenditure as at May 4, 2002:	Rs. 18,833.00
Balance:	Rs. 2,16,454.00

(The Total Expenditure above includes scholarship grants.)

- **Cash Savings Record.**

Fixed Deposit for 2 years with Sulabh @ 10% Interest:	Rs. 50,000.00
Sulabh Shareholder Membership:	Rs. 3,000.00
Total money with Sulabh Co-operative:	Rs. 53,000.00
Himalayan Bank fixed deposit with Interest Rate 5.5%	Rs. 50,000.00

The remainder of our cash is in the current account with Himalayan Bank, Maharajganj.

Comments. The Chairman commented that as yet, the account books were far from satisfactory. Therefore action was at hand to correct the situation. (Now complete – ed.)

The Treasurer stated that there had been a lot of red tape to get him recognised and at long last the bank had now accepted him as the new Treasurer of PAHAD Association who was authorised to sign the cheques. Congratulations!

POCT Update. The new POCT Coordinator, Bhola Shrestha, talked about the 32 students in Doti. Their vocational training consisted of farming, carpentry and sewing (for girls). The junior girls are worked every Saturday by a trained instructor. Activities such as orchard management and mushroom farming are also being done. Recently the vegetables grown there were sold and some profit was made.

Other points were:

- The British Embassy has also given a grant towards a self-catering hostel for girls.
- The Summer Camp for POCT students will be organised at Budhanilkantha School in June.
- The POCT activities at Budhanilkantha continue to run smoothly.

The Birthday Celebration. Despite all the interesting discussions in progress, the Birthday Cake arrived at 15.00 hours. sharp - as planned!

“Happy Birthday to PAHAD!” was chorused by all and Sahadev, the youngest scholar present, got to blow out the candles and to cut the Cake with Mrs. Rai (the oldest member present) helping.

The senior students led by Abhisek and Tara organised the distribution of eats, drinks and a piece of the birthday cake for all!

Adjournment. The melee after the eating, drinking and talking was in full swing when the Chairman accepted that he had lost control completely by 16 00 hours. He therefore, declared the Meeting ended until the next birthday!

- The Chairman thanks the following for their contribution as follows:
DK Shrestha - for arranging the Meeting place, tea and biscuits from the Main Kitchen.
Bhola Shrestha – for the Cold drinks.
Kumar Pandey – for the sweets and eats.
The Rais – for the Birthday Cake and the plates, cups, napkins and the utensils.
Tara, Abhisek, Ishak and the senior girls and boys of the school for taking charge of everything else.

(Based on a Report by Abhishek Gurung)

“*And the #1 Favourite is.....*”

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck.

—Ricky, age 10

The Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT)

(From the web site www.ladybird.demon.co.uk updated by Mahesh Nair)

The **Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust started** in London in 1995.

The Trust helps the Pestalozzi graduates to set up **Foundations** in their own countries to help educate new generations of disadvantaged children. Once the Foundations are successfully established the Trust can move on to help other countries.

POCT supports the Pestalozzi Alumni in setting up and running Pestalozzi Foundations in their own countries. These Foundations help children who are underprivileged, thereby creating the circle of success in which one who has benefited from help during their formative years and goes out to provide similar help to others.

POCT supports the schools, where POCT scholars are educated, in setting up and running Vocational Skills Training Centres. These also benefit the local community.

POCT also promotes the Pestalozzi International Network by producing a twice yearly magazine for the POCT scholars facilitating the exchange of letters between scholars of different nationalities producing a twice yearly Newsletter for Pestalozzi alumni encouraging and facilitating links between current scholars and the graduates funding Reunions each year for Pestalozzi alumni at which the main members of the Foundations meet.

Contact Information:

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Postal Address

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UK Office (London): POCT, 51 Thurloe Square, London SW7 2SX, UK

Contact Name UK Office (Sussex): Joanna Nair / Mahesh Nair

Electronic Mail UK Office (Sussex): poct@ladybird.demon.co.uk

Other Sites of Interest

- www.pestalozzi.org.uk Pestalozzi Children's Village in East Sussex, UK
- www.pestalozzi.ch Pestalozzi Village in Switzerland
- www.ibo.org/ International Baccalaureate Organisation
- www.tibet.org/index.html Tibet Online Resource Gathering
- www.ncrel.org/sdrs/pathways.htm Pathways to School Improvement

Reunion 2002

Phuntsok Tashi offered to host the 2002 Reunion at Dehra Dun in February 2002. Yashpal Kapoor also offered to co-host it, making it a Tibetan-Indian Reunion.

Reunion 2003

This will be held in Kathmandu Nepal early in the year. Dates are 1 – 2 February 2003. It will be hosted by the Co-ordinator closely assisted by PAHAD. Put it in your diary and send your suggestions on how to make it interesting please!

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?
—Kelvin, age 8

Miscellaneous Subjects

1. A Show. In November 2001 Santosh Shrestha and her Dental Student friends proposed to help PAHAD by holding a fund raising activity. Their plan was to organise a musical charity show. This would include popular singers they knew through their friends. They said -

- They would try to organise the instruments, the hall and also find sponsors for the tickets and the show.
- They were keen on 'advertising' PAHAD by writing articles about the show.
- PAHAD's role. They needed PAHAD to permit them to go ahead with their plans. Members of PAHAD were requested to help them with good ideas. PAHAD as an association was requested to help in any other way it could.
- Minimum Costs. The costs of running the show were to be kept as low as possible. Every attempt was to be made to manage it at minimum costs or get it done free.

This was too good to be true! We were all keen to help but members of the Committee were unwilling to take on the responsibility of mounting the show itself. There was much discussion. The girls were enthusiastic but had their academic commitments and lacked the administrative experience. Their proposed date in Winter Holidays (January 2002) for the show was also considered too soon.

Before even staging the show, there was a lot of homework to be done as discussed below:

- We need to know how much it will cost.
- How many tickets do we hope to sell?
- How much money did we hope to make?
- Publicity methods budget and persons?

The discussions on "How to go about organising the show" were:

- Mrs. Thapa suggested that former or current Budhanilkantha students should be mobilised as they have a lot of relevant experience. Also, perhaps by pulling in the Society of Ex-Budhanilkantha Students (SEBS), we could get pop stars such as Nabin K Bhattarai to perform for us.
- How about Baisakh 1 or a date close to that for the show?
- Mr. Kumar Pandey said that the money could be made available as long as the essential homework was done and we were doing the running around.

The meeting ended with the agreement that the girls would do their homework on setting up the Musical Show in a convenient slot for them in the future. Then we would meet again.

2. Committee Decision in Mar 2002. It was agreed that there should be an opportunity for the Committee to meet up with the new members informally to make them feel welcome. Major Rai was warm to the idea of organising a tea gathering for them in the near future.

3. POCT Reunion 2002. The Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT) Reunion this year was held in Dehradun between 21 to 26 February. It was hosted by Mr. Phuntsok Tashi, member of the Tibetan Pestalozzi Alumni. From Nepal (PAHAD) it was attended by Major Rai, Bhola Shrestha, Abhishek Gurung, Tara Poudel and Hikmat Khadka.

The most important point raised at the Reunion was as follows:

- Sir Richard proposed building an Asian Village, possibly in India and asked alumni members whether they would be prepared to support it. Based on the response and further visits to potential sites, Sir Richard planned to talk to the Directors of Pestalozzi Village in the UK. The literature on this too will be sent to all Committee Members when available.
- PAHAD spoke for Nepal and said that we would support the Asian Village in any way we could. They further stated that Nepal should also be considered as a potential site for the Asian Village.

4. Renewal of Registration. Abhishek Gurung has worked hard and been entirely responsible for this. He reported that although the renewal was planned for much earlier, it was constantly interrupted by various holidays and technical difficulties. We have complied with all documentary requirements except the form issued by the Social Welfare Council (SWC).

The cost of renewal is likely to be Rs. 1,400/- as advised by the Office. It will soon be also time to renew again in Ashar for the Fiscal Year 2059/2060. (We are now renewed for BS 2058.)

5. Fundraising. Members of the Committee have agreed to investigate this in the sub-committees. Bhola Shrestha agreed to be the Coordinator of this sub-committee. Kumar Pandey said we need to have tentative ideas and targets such as our income for the next 5 years.

6. Sub-committee. Sub-committees are to meet regularly outside formal Committee Meetings. They will hold brainstorming sessions on relevant issues that need detailed investigation before being presented at the Committee Meetings. The first such sub-committees will look at Joanna's material about the proposal of an Asian Village discussed at the Reunion. It will also consider our plans for the input to a web site.

7. PAHAD Camps. Major Rai said we haven't thought seriously about PAHAD Camps so far. Now that we will be having 8 of our own scholars, we must start. We have to have a session on this. There were concerns such as having a Camp with only 8 will be too small and very expensive to run. And perhaps not all these students might turn up!

The Meeting committed itself to a Camp in 2059. Future Committee Meetings will address this issue.

8. Student Loans. Dhruva Kumar Shrestha asked if PAHAD has a policy about the provision of loans to students. The senior Budhanilkantha students, who are non-Pestalozzi but PAHAD Members, have requested PAHAD to lend them the sum of money because of their financial needs for further studies. In return, these students were willing to work for and help with PAHAD Activities. After some deliberation the ruling was:

"Unfortunately, PAHAD doesn't have such a policy yet. Questions of how the loans would be paid back as they wouldn't be small amounts will need careful thought. It was also not known how much the students would need. The Committee has therefore, decided that no Students Loans will be considered for the time being. PAHAD is still growing and doesn't have sufficient funds."

Mentioned in Dispatches

- Mrs. Jana Thapa's husband, Dr. Thapa has had a triple-by-pass surgery in January. He was still recovering in May. In June he had a check up and was declared "Completely recovered"! PAHAD Members are happy at his speedy recovery and wish both of them well.
- Ramyata Limbu married Tripple Gurung last December. Her happiness was marred by the loss of her maternal grandfather in March this year. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family.
- Kanak Limbu returned from the USA to marry Sumnima Phudong on 3 July 02. Congratulations!
- Hikmat Khadka left his job as Teacher at Rato Bangala School in April and joined an INGO involved with social work. His new job is going to allow him time off on the Weekends (Hooray!).
- Senior POCT Students: Ishak, Abhisek, Santosh and Tara and Gita have all passed their end of the year exams and started on their second year studies. Well done All!

From: Larry J MG Army G-4"
 Subject: Thought for the Week
 Date: Fri, 31 May 2002

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This week's Thought for the Week is:

Swallow a toad in the morning and you will encounter nothing more distasteful the rest of the day.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Have a great weekend, keep safe, and remember – We are born naked, wet, and hungry, and get slapped on our ass ...then things get worse.